

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE  
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS

**Proponent:** The BNSF Railway Company (BNSF)

**Description of proposal:** The proposed action is excavation of contaminated soil and sediments in Skykomish, Washington, pursuant Chapter 70.105D RCW, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA). This proposal includes excavation of contaminated soil and river sediment and replacing with clean fill. Five homes and residents will temporarily be relocated for up to 6 months (June through November, 2006). The existing flood control levee will also be removed and rebuilt. A detailed description of the work appears in the preliminary draft Engineering Design Report (EDR) prepared by BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) at the direction of Ecology. This proposal will be an Interim Action for the Levee Zone performed directly by Ecology or BNSF at Ecology's direction, pursuant to an Order. Ecology will direct additional cleanup activities at a later date.

**Location and description of site:** The area of excavation encompasses approximately 4 acres located in the Town of Skykomish, King County, Washington. The area of excavation is directly west of the Skykomish Bridge on the south side of the South Fork Skykomish River to approximately 700 feet westward along the river and approximately 135 feet upland south from the river's edge. This area also includes 5 residences. Work in the river bed will extend approximately 10-30 feet from the Levee's edge out into the river. (See attached figure.)

Bunker C fuel and diesel spilled during former operations has migrated from the rail yard under the Town of Skykomish and is discharging into the Skykomish River at the location of the Levee Zone. Since 1993, BNSF has conducted investigations and interim actions at the site under agreed orders with Ecology. A detailed operations history of the rail yard, a description of the conditions at the Site, a description of the interim actions performed to date, and a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) are provided in reports prepared by BNSF pursuant to the agreed orders. These documents are: Draft Remedial Investigation Report (January 1996), Interim Action Basis of Design for LNAPL Barrier System (2001), Design for Phase II of the Interim Action (2002), Supplemental Remedial Investigation (2002), Draft Feasibility Study/Environmental Impact Statement (2003), Final Feasibility Study (2005), and other sampling events and studies applicable to Ecology's decision-making. (See Ecology's website at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/bnsf\\_sky/bnsf\\_sky.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/bnsf_sky/bnsf_sky.html) for these documents.)

**Lead agency:** Washington State Department of Ecology

**EIS:** This proposal is an urgent cleanup action taken on a portion of the site before cleanup plans for the entire site are finalized. The lead agency has determined that the impact of this proposal (excavation, temporary relocation of homes and people, removing and rebuilding the flood control levee) will have significant adverse impacts on the environment and requires an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This EIS is conducted under Chapter 197-11 WAC, meeting requirements for the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21C RCW.

This draft EIS will accompany the draft Engineering Design Report, National Pollutant Elimination Discharge System (NPDES) permit and other permits for the cleanup work. All the documents for the proposal will be presented for public comment together in Spring 2006. These documents include: draft Engineering Design Report, NPDES and other permits, EIS, Order, and Public Participation Plan.

**The lead agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS:** Direct and indirect, cumulative and short-term and long-term impacts are:

### The Natural Environment

#### *Geology/Soils*

- Soil stability and drainage impacts

#### *Air*

- Odor from exposed product
- Dust from construction activity and truck traffic

#### *Water*

- Surface water quantity impacts
- Surface water quality impacts

#### *Plants & Animals*

- Fish habitat impacts
- Vegetation removal and loss of habitat

### The Built Environment

#### *Environmental Health*

- Noise

#### *Land & Shoreline Use*

- Aesthetic (view) impacts
- Historic & Cultural Resources
- Housing (temporary displacement)

#### *Transportation*

- Access to residences, public facilities and businesses
- Detours and obstructions
- Pedestrian Access & Safety

#### *Public Services & Utilities*

- School (accessibility and use, playground, transportation)
- Infrastructure (septic, water, stormwater, flood control)
- Emergency Services (fire, police)
- Parks & Recreation (town events)

**Scoping:** Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal. Comments may be made on the probable significant adverse impacts, mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required as they relate to the Engineering Design Report for the planned Interim Action.

Comments may be made at SEPA scoping meetings or in writing by February 3, 2006.  
Please address comments to:

Louise Bardy  
BNSF Skykomish SEPA  
WA State Department of Ecology  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Email: [lbar461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:lbar461@ecy.wa.gov)  
Subject line: BNSF Skykomish SEPA

Ecology will host SEPA scoping and cleanup design review meetings for the proposal according to the following schedule.

General Public  
Tuesday, January 24, 2006  
6-8 pm  
Skykomish Community Center  
208 Railroad Avenue, Skykomish

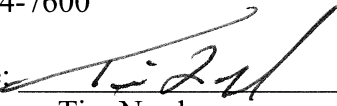
Skykomish School Board  
Wednesday, January 25, 2006  
4-6 pm  
Skykomish Community Center  
208 Railroad Avenue, Skykomish

Governmental Agencies  
Thursday, January 26, 2006  
1-3 pm  
Ecology NW Regional Office  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Bellevue  
(Park in Ecology Overflow lot –  
1<sup>st</sup> drive on the left on 160<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE)

For additional information, contact Susan Lee at 425-649-4486 or by cell phone at 360-790-9959.

**Responsible official:** Tim Nord  
**Position/title:** Section Manager, HQ, Toxics Cleanup Program  
**Address:** WA State Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Date: 1/12/06

Signature: 

Tim Nord